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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/679,697 10/05/00 HANSEN

R 3257-39

EXAMINER

IM52/0813

JOSEPH C SULLIVAN
PITNEY HARDIN KIPP & SZUCH LLP
711 THIRD AVENUE 20TH FLOOR
NEW YORK NY 10017

HASTINGS, K
ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1731
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08/13/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/679,677

Applicant(s)

Hansen

Examiner

HASTINGS

Group Art Unit

1731

—The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address—

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Status

- ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 1-01; 10-00
- ☐ This action is FINAL.
- ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are pending in the application.
- Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are rejected.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

- ☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
- ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.
- ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

- ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- ☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been received.
- ☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.
- ☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 1.7.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s): 2
- ☒ Notice of Reference(s) Cited, PTO-892
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948
- ☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152
- ☐ Other _____

Office Action Summary

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the limitations of claims 23-28 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Note there is no Figure that shows the extra layers claimed in these claims - for example only, no Figure which shows in cross-section the structure of claim 28 which has both a first laminated structure and a second laminated structure.

Claims 7-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 7 is unclear since it does not properly relate to the bottom layer and the top layer already recited in claim 1. It is suggested that on each of lines 4 and 6 of claim 7 "a" be changed to --the-- before "bottom" and before "top", respectively in order to properly relate back to claim 1.

Claims 1-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Best et al. and/or Rexfelt et al. each further in view of Welsh.

As admitted by applicant and as exemplified in Rexfelt et al., making a press felt by spirally winding a thin strip is well known in the art. This is also exemplified in Best et al. which shows in various Figures 3-7 many spirally wound layers of the same and/or different materials to build up a press felt.

The only thing not shown is that these references do not teach that one may laminate two thin strips together offset as claimed and then wind this laminated structure to make the felt. However in the Examiner's opinion this is a well known expedient for manufacturing any spiral wound product of manufacture and would have been prima facie obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art for the known advantages of premanufacturing a subcomposite part of the felt to do so; especially where as exemplified in Best et al., many layers can be used to make up a press felt.

However to exemplify that this is a very old well known manufacturing technique, Welsh is cited as it teaches making a tube of cardboard or other materials to laminate thin strips 18 and 19 offset from one another together (see Fig 5) and then spirally build up the tube from this thin laminated two layer strip in order to have a stronger joint from the staggered relation of the two prebonded strips. Thus one of ordinary skill in the art would have been amply motivated by the known general concept of obtaining a stronger bond from staggering two thin

strips together and then spirally winding them into the final product of manufacture. Furthermore Welsh provides further motivation in that he teaches in Fig 5 two different materials bonded together to make the thin strip is an alternative to Fig 4 wherein the thin strip is made out of a single material. Thus one would have been motivated to manufacture the different material layers of Best et al as a preformed laminated composite of two materials as is shown in Fig 5 of Welsh to be an alternative to merely winding a thin material strip of the same material.

All dependent claims are shown or suggested by the references; for example only, it is well known to make the various layers of a felt of the various claimed materials as set forth in the dependent claims.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Eriksson is cited of interest since it teaches that a drive belt or conveyor band may be built up from a long and rather narrow batt that may comprise one or several layers of webs. Thus it has been known to use a narrow previously layered structure to then build up a conveyor belt.

Obiglio is cited of interest since it teaches in manufacturing a tubular body prelaminating two narrow strips together and then spirally winding them.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Hastings whose telephone number is (703) 308-0470. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 6:30 A.M. to 5 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Stanley Silverman, can be reached on (703) 308-3857. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 305-7115.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0651.


Karen M. Hastings
Senior Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1731

KMH/cdc
August 9, 2001

8-2001